

# **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1.96 *Revised*  
R31Fsn

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA



U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with

NEVADA DEPARTMENT of CONSERVATION  
and NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION of WATER RESOURCES

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation  
with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

AS OF  
MAR. 1, 1974

## TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

*Cover Photo: Snow Surveyors near Ship Creek,  
Alaska snow course.*

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

## PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 511 N. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

## PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA**

and  
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

*Issued by*

**KENNETH E. GRANT**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Released by*

**CHARLES A. KRALL**  
STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
RENO, NEVADA

*In Cooperation with*

**ELMO J. DE RICCO**  
DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA

*Report prepared by*

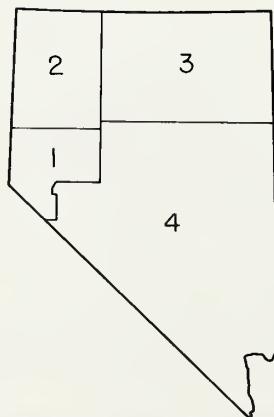
**DONALD W. McANDREW**, Snow Survey Supervisor  
and

**JOHN D. RODA**, Assistant Snow Survey Supervisor  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 4850  
RENO, NEVADA

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA .....	1 and 2
PROSPECTIVE WATER SUPPLY FOR NEVADA (Map).....	3
INDEX OF NEVADA SNOW COURSES (By Basins).....	4
NEVADA STREAMFLOW FORECASTS .....	5
SPECIAL FORECASTS AND SOIL MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS.....	6
STORAGE STATUS OF NEVADA RESERVOIRS.....	7
SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS.....	8
TELEMETERED SNOW DATA.....	9
LIST OF COOPERATORS.....	Inside Back Cover

ALL AVERAGES ARE FOR 1958-72 PERIOD



AREA LOCATIONS

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA

AS OF MARCH 1, 1974, NEVADA'S WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK IS VERY FAVORABLE FOR IRRIGATION SUPPLIES ALONG THE PRINCIPAL WATERSHEDS IN THE STATE. THE MOUNTAIN SNOWPACK THROUGHOUT NEVADA IS ABOVE AVERAGE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME SMALL WATERSHEDS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA.

RESERVOIR STORAGE REMAINS EXCELLENT, WITH MAJOR RESERVOIRS THROUGHOUT THE STATE IMPOUNDING 130 PERCENT OF AVERAGE AMOUNTS.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT PREDICT ABOVE AVERAGE FLOWS FOR ALL STATIONS PERTINENT TO NEVADA'S WATER SUPPLY, EXCEPT FOR THE VIRGIN RIVER NEAR VIRGIN, UTAH.

## East Slope Sierra Nevada

Snow surveys indicate the Tahoe-Truckee watersheds have very near average snowpack conditions. The Carson River drainage has 10 percent above average snowpack, and the Walker River drainage is slightly less at 105 percent. The entire area experienced a heavy snowstorm late in February and early March. Effects of this storm are not shown in snow measurements recorded in this report that were taken on or before February 27. Because of the storm's magnitude, the streamflow forecasts issued do, however, take into account the storm's effects. Snow conditions throughout most of the area now exceed the average maximum buildup which usually occurs near April 1.

Reservoir storage ranges from 129 percent of average in Lahontan Reservoir to 140 percent of normal in the reservoirs on the Truckee River. Topaz and Bridgeport currently contain 133 percent of normal storage for this date. Streamflow is expected to range from near average to 15 percent above average for all of the East Slope Sierra watersheds. Lake Tahoe is forecast to rise 1.48 feet this year, which is 101 percent of normal.

The water supply outlook for all of western Nevada indicates very good conditions for the coming irrigation season.

### Humboldt and Owyhee Drainages

Snowpack conditions vary from 113 percent of average near Winnemucca to 148 percent in the Upper Owyhee drainage. Other important mountain watershed areas include the Ruby range, 132 percent; Independence Mountains, 126 percent; and Jarbidge area, 135 percent.

The big end-of-month snowstorm did not affect the Humboldt and Owyhee drainages as markedly as it did in the Sierra range.

Reservoir storage is excellent, with Wild Horse Reservoir containing 53,000 acre-feet and Rye Patch containing 121,000 acre-feet. This represents 150 percent of average conditions, collectively.

Streamflow is expected to range between 103 and 136 percent of average along the entire Humboldt River and its tributaries. The Owyhee is expected to produce nearly 25 percent above average streamflow this summer. Water users in both drainages can anticipate a good irrigation season.

### Eastern & Central Nevada

Snow surveys indicate the mountain snowpack varies from 114 percent in White Pine County to 136 percent on the Toiyabe range in Central Nevada. Water supplies derived from direct streamflow in White Pine, Eureka and Lander Counties will be average to slightly above average this spring and summer.

### Northern Great Basin

The mountain watershed in northeastern Nevada and the Warner Mountains of California have above average snowpack ranging from 107 to 128 percent of normal. Streamflow forecasts in the Surprise Valley area of California reflect the above average conditions, with Bidwell Creek forecast to flow 117 percent. Other forecasts range up to 140 percent in the area. Irrigation supplies will be adequate in the Surprise Valley this summer.

### Southern Nevada

The snowpack is generally below average throughout southern Nevada. Current snow conditions on Mt. Charleston are 10 percent below normal for this date. Other mountain ranges in the southern third of the state are only 40 to 45 percent of normal. However, these areas very seldom have deep snowpacks, and the lack of snow, percentagewise, will not affect water supplies materially. Small, direct-flow irrigation supplies will generally be good in the spring, with summer flows receding earlier than normal. The Virgin River at Virgin, Utah, is forecast to flow 40,000 acre-feet this summer.

# PROSPECTIVE WATER SUPPLY FOR NEVADA

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13

O R E G O N I D A H O

#### LEGEND

- 1.  MUCH ABOVE AVERAGE WATER SUPPLY
- 2.  ABOVE AVERAGE WATER SUPPLY
- 3.  NEAR AVERAGE WATER SUPPLY
- 4.  BELOW AVERAGE WATER SUPPLY
- 5.  MUCH BELOW AVERAGE WATER SUPPLY



10 0 10 20 MILE  
SALT  
19493 ROYAL AREA PROJECT 44

# INDEX TO NEVADA SNOW COURSES

## (By Basins)

Refer to the map on the preceding page for Snow Course Locations.

NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
--------	------	------	------	------	-------

### SNAKE RIVER BASIN

#### SNAKE RIVER

15H1MA	Bear Creek	31	46N	58E	7800
15H2	Fox Creek	33	46N	58E	6800
15H13A	Goat Creek	31	46N	60E	8800
15H15A	Hummingbird Springs	6	45N	60E	8945
14H1	Jakes Creek	6	42N	62E	7000
15H20a	Merritt Mountain	10	46N	54E	7000
15H14A	Pole Creek Ranger Station	13	46N	59E	8330
15H18a	Red Point	15	47N	61E	7940
15H3A	76 Creek	6	44N	58E	7100
15H19a	Stag Mountain	29	41N	58E	7800

#### OWYHEE RIVER

15H4MP	Big Bend	30	45N	56E	6700
16H6a	Columbia Basin	31	44N	53E	6650
16H8a	Fawn Creek	2	45N	52E	7000
15H5	Gold Creek	32	45N	56E	6600
16H1M	Jack Creek, Lower	18	42N	53E	6800
16H2A	Jack Creek, Upper	9	42N	53E	7250
16H4	Jacks Peak	28	42N	53E	8420
16H5	Laurel Draw	20	45N	53E	6700
17G4a	Louse Canyon (Oreg.)	27	40S	44E	6440
15H9MP	Taylor Canyon	35	39N	53E	6200

### INTERIOR

#### UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVER

15J17a	American Beauty	32	31N	58E	7800
15J12a	Corral Canyon	27	28N	57E	8500
15J1MP	Dorsey Basin	28	35N	60E	8100
15J3	Ory Creek	5	34N	60E	6500
15H7	Fry Canyon	31	43N	54E	6700
15J9MP	Green Mountain	23	29N	57E	8000
15J10	Harrison Pass #1	9	28N	57E	6600
15J11	Harrison Pass #2	16	28N	57E	7400
15J4	Lamoille #1	15	32N	58E	7100
15J5	Lamoille #2	14	32N	58E	7200
15J6M	Lamoille #3	24	32N	58E	7700
15J7	Lamoille #4	19	32N	59E	8000
15J8P	Lamoille #5	31	32N	59E	8700
15J18a	Pole Canyon	31	35N	61E	9140
15J16a	Robinson Lake	23	33N	59E	9200
15H6MP	Roded Flat	36	43N	53E	6800
15J2	Ryan Ranch	1	34N	59E	5800
15H8	Tremewan Ranch	9	39N	55E	5700
15H10P	Trout Creek, Lower	28	37N	61E	6900
15H11A	Trout Creek, Upper	4	36N	61E	8500

#### LOWER HUMBOLDT RIVER

17K1	Big Creek Camp Ground	10	17N	43E	6600
17K2	Big Creek Mine	23	17N	43E	7600
17K3	Big Creek, Upper	26	17N	43E	7800
17H2	Buckskin, Lower	25	45N	39E	6700
17H1	Buckskin, Upper	11	45N	39E	8200
17L1	Corral, Lower	12	11N	40E	7500
17L2	Corral, Upper	20	11N	41E	8000
17J2	Golconda #2	22	35N	39E	6000
17H4	Granite Peak	22	44N	39E	7800
17H5	Lamance Creek	13	42N	38E	6000
17H3	Martin Creek	18	44N	40E	6700
16H3AP	Midas	18	39N	46E	7200
16H7	Toe Jam a	29	40N	50E	7700

#### EASTERN NEVADA

14L1	Baker #1	29	13N	69E	7950
14L2	Baker #2	30	13N	69E	8950
14L3	Baker #3	25	13N	68E	9250
14K2	Berry Creek	26	17N	65E	9100
14K1	Bird Creek	34	19N	65E	7500
15J15	Hole-in-Mountain	6	35N	61E	7900
14K8	Kalamazoo Creek	34	20N	65E	7400
14K3	Murray Summit	25	16N	62E	7250
15K1	Robinson Summit	34	18N	61E	7600
14K7	Silver Creek #2	30	16N	69E	8000
14K5	Ward Mountain #2	25	15N	62E	8900

#### CENTRAL GREAT BASIN

18M2	Campito Mountain (Cal.)	19	55	35E	10200
18M5a	Chiatovich Flat	32	25	34E	10500
15N2	Clark Canyon	8	19S	56E	9000
18M1	Montgomery Pass	4	1N	33E	7100
18M3a	Pinchot Creek	28	1N	33E	9300
18M4a	Piute Pass (Cal.)	33	45	33E	11700
15N1	Trough Springs	23	18S	55E	8500

#### NORTHERN GREAT BASIN

19H1	Bald Mountain	17	45N	21E	6720
20H5	Barber Creek (Cal.)	23	39N	16E	6500
20H6	Cedar Pass (Cal.)	12	43N	14E	7100
1866a	Oeno Creek (Oreg.)	14	41S	34E	6000
18H1	Osister Peak	8	47N	34E	6500
20H3a	Oisman Swamp (Cal.)	31	48N	17E	7000
20H7	Eagle Peak (Cal.)	35	40N	15E	7200
19H3	49-Mountain	7	42N	19E	6000
19H2	Hays Canyon	1	39N	18E	6400
19H4a	Little Bally Mountain	8	45N	19E	6000
20H9	Mt. Bidwell	6	47N	16E	7200
20H10	North Star	13	47N	15E	6200
17G5a	Oregon Canyon (Oreg.)	9	40S	40E	7240
17H6a	Quinn Ridge	9	47N	41E	6300
20H4	Reservation Creek (Cal.)	12	46N	15E	5900
18G5a	Trout Creek (Oreg.)	10	41S	38E	7800

NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
--------	------	------	------	------	-------

### LAKE TAHOE

20L5	Echo Summit (Cal.)	6	11N	18E	7450
19L2	Free Bench (Cal.)	36	12N	18E	7300
19K6	Glenbrook #2	13	14N	18E	6900
19L3M5Z	Hagans Meadow (Cal.)	36	12N	18E	8000
20L4	Lake Lucille (Cal.)	28	12N	17E	8200
19K4M5TZ	Marlette Lake	18	15N	19E	8000
20L3	Richardsons #2 (Cal.)	6	12N	18E	6500
20L1	Rubicon #1 (Cal.)	6	13N	17E	8100
20L2	Rubicon #2 (Cal.)	6	13N	17E	7500
20K16	Tahoe City (Cal.)	6	15N	17E	6250
19L1	Upper Truckee (Cal.)	21	12N	18E	6400
20K17M	Ward Creek (Cal.)	21	15N	16E	7000
20K25STZ	Ward Creek #2 (Cal.)	21	15N	16E	6750
20K27	Tahoe City Cross (Cal.)	1	15N	16E	6750

### TRUCKEE RIVER

20K14	Boca #2 (Cal.)	28	18N	17E	5900
20K22	Brockway Summit (Cal.)	3	17N	16E	7100
20K21	Donner Park #2 (Cal.)	18	17N	16E	6000
20K10	Donner Summit (Cal.)	25	17N	14E	6900
20K7*	Fordyce Lake (Cal.)	34	18N	13E	6500
20K8*	Furnace Flat (Cal.)	10	17N	13E	6700
20K245	Heavenly Valley (Cal.)	1	12N	18E	8850
20K4M5TPZ	Independence Camp (Cal.)	34	19N	15E	7000
20K3	Independence Creek (Cal.)	14	19N	15E	6500
20K5	Independence Lake (Cal.)	9	18N	15E	8450
19K3	Little Valley	17	16N	19E	6300
19K2	Mt. Rose	7	17N	19E	9000
19K7	Mt. Rose Ski Area	30	17N	19E	9000
20K6	Sage Hen Creek (Cal.)	7	18N	16E	6500
20K19	Squaw Valley #2 (Cal.)	6	15N	16E	7500
20K13M	Truckee #2 (Cal.)	22	17N	16E	6400
20K2*	Webber Lake (Cal.)	29	19N	14E	7000
20K1*	Webber Peak (Cal.)	30	19N	14E	8000

### CARSON RIVER

19L11	Blue Lakes (Cal.)	20	4N	23E	8500
19L10	Buckeye Roughs (Cal.)	15	4N	23E	7900
19L12A	Center Mountain (Cal.)	4	3N	23E	9400
19L8	Leavitt Meadows (Cal.)	4	5N	22E	7200
19L7a	Lobdell Lake (Cal.)	20	7N	24E	9200
19L7M	Sonora Pass (Cal.)	1	5N	21E	8800
19L235TPZ	Sonora Pass Bridge	6	5N	22E	8800
19M1*	Tioga Pass (Cal.)	30	1N	25E	9900
19L13	Virginia Lakes (Cal.)	5	2N	25E	9500
19L22M5Z	Virginia Lake Ridge	32	3N	25E	9200
19L9	Willow Flat (Cal.)	21	5N	23E	8250

### COLORADO

#### LOWER COLORADO RIVER

15N5	Kyle Canyon	27	195	56E	8200
15N4	Lee Canyon #1	10	195	56E	8400
15N3	Lee Canyon #2	9	195	56E	9200
15N8	Lee Canyon #3	10	195	56E	8500
14M1	Mathew Canyon	10	65	70E	6000
14M2	Pine Canyon	23	65	69E	6200
15W7	Rainbow Canyon #2	6	205	57E	8100
15L1	White River #1	31	13N	59E	7400

#### LEGEND

##### NUMBERING SYSTEM (EXAMPLE)

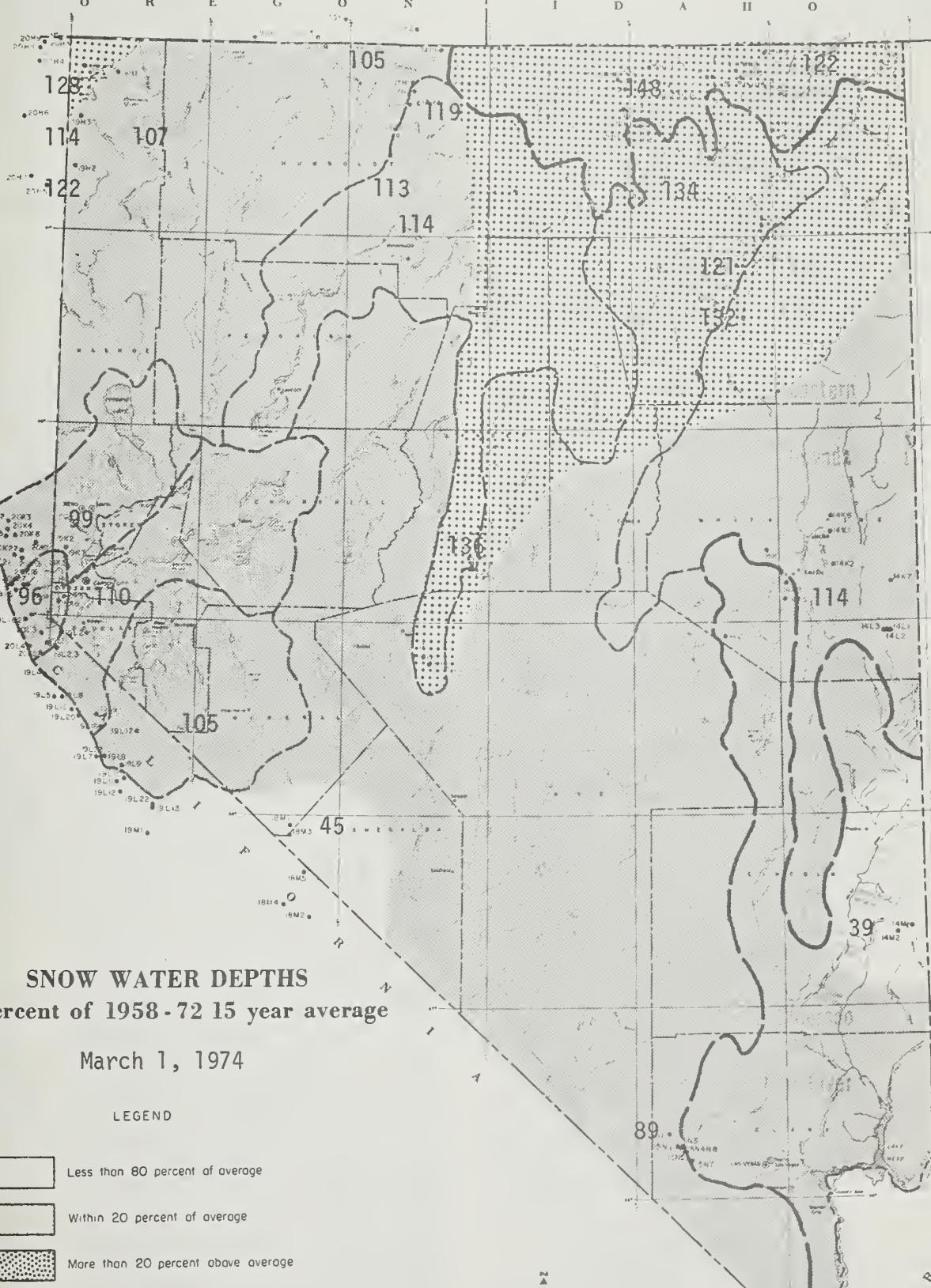
19K4	Snow Course Only
19K45	Snow Course and Snow Pillow
19K4M	Snow Course and Soil Moisture
19K4A	Snow Course and Aerial Marker
19K4P	Snow Course and Storage Precipitation Gage
19K4MA	Snow Course, Soil Moisture and Aerial Marker
19K4MP	Snow Course, Soil Moisture and Precipitation Gage
19K45TZ	Snow Course, Snow Pillow and Temperature Radio Telemetered

Lower case letters m, a, p, s, t, z, indicate no snow course, only a Soil Moisture Station, Aerial Marker, Storage Precipitation Gage, Snow Pillow, Temperature, or Radio Telemetered.

\* Located on adjacent watershed

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13

O R E G O N I D A H O G H A T T A K O M I Z O N A P R



# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (Thousand Acre Feet) as of: March 1, 1974

Forecasts are based on snow-water presently stored in the mountain watersheds and the assumption that precipitation will be near average throughout the forecast period. Peak flow forecasts indicate the most probable range for the maximum average 24-hour flow. All averages are for 1958-72 period.

FORECAST POINT	Forecast Period	Forecast This Year	This Year as Percent of Average	Average +
<u>TRUCKEE RIVER</u>				
Little Truckee River above Boca, CA <sup>1</sup>	April-July	94	105	89
Truckee River at Farad, CA <sup>1,2</sup>	April-July	285	106	267
Lake Tahoe Rise in Feet (assuming gates closed) <sup>2</sup>	March-High	1.76	101	1.74
	April-High	1.48	101	1.46
<u>CARSON RIVER</u>				
East Carson near Gardnerville, NV	March-July	199	101	198
	April-July	183	101	182
West Carson at Woodfords, CA	March-July	64	114	56
	April-July	60	115	52
Carson River near Carson City, NV	March-July	208	103	201
	April-July	185	103	178
Carson River near Fort Churchill, NV	March-July	187	103	181
	April-July	165	104	159
<u>WALKER RIVER</u>				
East Walker near Bridgeport, CA <sup>1</sup>	March-Aug.	83	111	75
	April-Aug.	76	112	68
West Walker below Little Walker near Coleville, CA	March-July	161	107	151
	April-July	155	107	145
<u>COLORADO RIVER</u>				
Virgin River at Virgin, UT	April-June	40	83	48
<u>HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>				
Lamoille Creek near Lamoille, NV	March-July	30	103	29
	April-July	29	104	28
South Fork Humboldt near Elko, NV	March-July	95	134	71
	April-July	90	136	66
Marys River above Hot Springs, NV	March-July	39	103	38
	April-July	35	103	34
North Fork Humboldt at Devils Gate, NV	March-July	41	103	40
	April-July	33	103	32

+ 1958-1972 period.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (Thousand Acre Feet) as of: March 1, 1974

FORECAST POINT	Forecast Period	Forecast This Year	This Year as Percent of Average	Average +
<u>HUMBOLDT RIVER (continued)</u>				
Humboldt River at Palisade, NV	March-July	235	108	218
	April-July	210	108	193
Humboldt River at Comus, NV	March-July	182	106	171
	April-July	160	107	149
Martin Creek near Paradise, NV	March-July	21	111	19
	April-July	18	112	16
<u>SNAKE RIVER</u>				
Owyhee River near Owyhee, NV <sup>1</sup>	March-July	97	120	81
	April-July	84	124	68
Owyhee River near Gold Creek, NV <sup>1</sup>	March-July	30	130	23
	April-July	25	139	18
Salmon Falls Creek near San Jacinto, NV	March-July	95	119	80
	March-Sept.	100	119	84
<u>SURPRISE VALLEY</u>				
Bidwell Creek near Fort Bidwell, CA	April-July	13.5	117	11.5
Mill Creek near Cedarville, CA	April-July	5.6	119	4.7
Deep Creek near Cedarville, CA	April-July	4.6	139	3.3
Eagle Creek near Eagleville, CA	April-July	5.8	140	4.3

<sup>1</sup> Corrected for storage

<sup>2</sup> Forecast issued by Truckee Basin Water Committee

**PEAK FLOWS** (MAXIMUM MEAN DAILY) (Av. flow for 24 hrs. on day of greatest flow)

FORECAST POINT	PEAK FLOW (SECOND FEET)		
	Forecast Range	Average	+
Little Truckee River - Inflow to Stampede Reservoir	950-1170	910	
East Fork Carson River near Gardnerville, NV	1520-1860	1728	
Carson River near Carson City, NV	1790-2190	1901	
Carson River near Fort Churchill, NV	1430-1750	1730	
West Walker River below Little Walker near Coleville, CA	1350-1650	1532	

**FORECAST DATE of LOW FLOW VALUES**

FORECAST POINT	Low Flow Value Second/Ft.	Forecast Date Stream Will Recede to Low Flow Value	Average Date of Low Flow Value
East Carson River near Gardnerville, NV	200	7/21	7/20

**SOIL MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS**

STATION	Profile (Inches)		Soil Moisture (Inches)		
	Depth	Capacity	Date	This Year	Average

OWYHEE-HUMBOLDT BASIN

Bear Creek	72	16.9	2/23	10.7	11.5*
Big Bend	48	16.7	2/26	15.4	15.0*
Rodeo Flat	42	11.0	2/26	7.4	9.0*
Taylor Canyon	48	15.1	2/23	10.9	12.5*

TAHOE-TRUCKEE BASIN

Independence Camp	34	6.1	2/25	3.1	4.5*
Marlette Lake	50	3.7	2/19	2.5	2.8*

WALKER BASIN

Sonora Pass	48	8.3	3/4	6.1	7.3*
Virginia Lakes Ridge	40	5.0	3/4	3.1	2.3*

\* Adjusted average

**RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet) as of**

Basin or Stream	RESERVOIR	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage		
			This Year	Last Year	Average +
Owyhee	Wild Horse	72	53	59	18
Lower Humboldt	Rye Patch	157	124	158	95
Colorado	Mohave	1,810	1,627	1,748	1,689
Colorado	Mead	27,217	19,888	19,453	17,224
Tahoe	Tahoe	732	606	544	443
Truckee	Boca	41	32	29	11
Truckee	Stampede	220	193	126	**
Truckee	Prosser ***	30	7	9	8*
Carson	Lahontan	291	264	245	204
West Walker	Topaz	59	55	33	40
East Walker	Bridgeport	42	40	25	31

\* Adjusted average  
\*\* Storage began August 1, 1969  
\*\*\* Flood control use allocation of 20,000 acre-feet between November 1 and April 10

**TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet)**

MONTH	This Year	Last Year	Average +
October 1	820	867	718
January 1	1,015	917	714
February 1	1,147	1,025	782
March 1	1,103	1,093	843
April 1		1,153	912
May 1		1,194	937

+ 1958-1972 period.

The above data developed from Wild Horse, Rye Patch, Tahoe, Boca, Lahontan, Topaz, and Bridgeport Reservoirs in 1,000 Acre-Feet.

TOTAL USABLE CAPACITY 1,394

## SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					Average +

### LAKE TAHOE

Echo Summit (CA)	2/25	77	28.1	33.8	29.6
Freel Bench (CA)	2/26	24	9.5	14.0	12.1*
Glenbrook #2	2/24	25	7.8	11.2	10.6
Hagans Meadow	2/26	41	13.4	20.4	16.1
Heavenly Valley	3/4	91	29.3	27.9	-
Lake Lucille (CA)	2/25	142	53.3	58.6	-
Marlette Lake	2/25	49	18.1	24.2	18.6
Richardsons #2 (CA)	2/24	43	13.9	18.3	15.6
Rubicon #1 (CA)	2/25	123	44.4	41.6	40.0
Rubicon #2 (CA)	2/25	69	25.9	28.2	24.8
Tahoe City (CA)	Destroyed			16.6	10.8*
Tahoe City Alternate (CA)	2/23	25	9.3	15.5	-
Tahoe City Cross (CA)	2/23	46	15.4	22.3	-
Upper Truckee (CA)	2/26	21	7.2	11.8	10.1
Ward Creek #2 (CA)	2/25	94	36.6	38.4	35.1
Ward Creek #3 (CA)	2/25	87	31.9	33.7	-

### TRUCKEE RIVER

Boca #2 (CA)	2/24	5	2.0	8.4	6.2
Brockway Summit (CA)	2/26	39	12.7	21.6	17.5*
Donner Park #2 (CA)	2/24	33	10.3	19.8	15.8*
Donner Summit (CA)	2/21	88	33.1	39.5	32.5
Fordyce Lake (CA)	2/22	89	33.7	47.5	31.5*
Furnace Flat (CA)	2/25	99	44.6	50.9	36.1*
Independence Camp (CA)	2/25	53	18.8	24.2	19.6*
Independence Creek (CA)	2/25	28	9.9	17.6	12.2*
Independence Lake (CA)	2/25	91	37.0	33.6	35.6*
Little Valley	Data Delayed			8.1	8.5
Mount Rose Ski Area	3/1	118	42.4	46.0	-
Sage Hen Creek (CA)	2/25	34	11.8	21.7	16.4
Squaw Valley #2 (CA)	2/25	103	39.2	51.2	43.2
Truckee #2 (CA)	2/27	36	11.3	17.0	3.1

### CARSON RIVER

Carson Pass, Upper, (CA)	2/20	71	26.5	34.1	31.1
Clear Creek	Data Delayed			12.4	11.9
Ebbetts Pass (CA)	3/4	115	35.7a	40.2	26.6*
Fish Valley, Upper (CA)	3/4	42	13.9a	15.8	13.1*
Poison Flat	3/4	56	17.1	16.5	13.9*
Wet Meadows Lake (CA)	3/4	70	25.2a	32.6a	23.0*
Wet Meadows #2 (CA)	3/4	100	36.3	37.8	-
Wolf Creek (CA)	3/4	91	30.0a	41.4a	27.2*

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE	THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD		
	NAME	Elevation	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	
			Last Year	Average	+	
<u>WALKER RIVER</u>						
Buckeye Forks (CA)		2/26	53	16.3	25.8	-
Buckeye Roughs (CA)		2/27	40	14.5	23.1	-
Center Mountain (CA)		2/27	91	32.3	39.1	33.9
Lobdell Lake (CA)		3/4	59	16.0a	17.9a	14.4*
Sonora Pass (CA)		3/4	77	26.0	26.4	21.5
Virginia Lakes (CA)		3/4	58	15.8	18.9	15.5
Virginia Lakes Ridge (CA)		3/4	65	17.6	18.0	-
Willow Flat (CA)		3/4	34	10.4	14.8	-
<u>NORTHERN GREAT BASIN</u>						
Bald Mountain		3/4	8	2.5	3.9	3.4
Barber Creek (CA)		2/27	38	12.2	12.2	10.0
Cedar Pass (CA)		2/26	50	15.0	11.7	13.1
Denio Creek (OR)		Data Delayed			0.8a	0.5*
Disaster Peak		2/26	45	14.1	12.5	13.4
Dismal Swamp (CA)		Data Delayed			15.6a	14.1
49 Mountain		2/26	10	3.1	3.8	3.7
Hays Canyon		2/27	T		4.2	3.2
Little Bally Mountain		3/4	15	4.5a	3.6a	2.3*
Oregon Canyon (OR)		Data Delayed			7.6a	4.8*
Quinn Ridge		Data Delayed			0.6a	1.8*
Reservation Creek (CA)		3/1	42	12.1	9.5	9.4
Trout Creek (OR)		Data Delayed			10.2a	6.4*
<u>SNAKE RIVER</u>						
Bear Creek		2/23	63	17.8	16.8	17.3
Fox Creek		2/23	41	11.0	8.8	9.0
Goat Creek		2/23	57	16.7	15.2	16.0
Hummingbird Springs		2/23	70	21.0	18.0	19.4
Merritt Mountain		2/25	24	7.0a	-	5.8
Pole Creek Ranger Station		2/23	64	19.7	16.6	16.8
Red Point		2/23	39	10.7	7.3	9.1
76 Creek		2/23	50	14.8	10.4	10.0
Stag Mountain		2/25	24	7.0a	6.8a	5.0*
<u>OWYHEE RIVER</u>						
Big Bend		2/26	37	11.4	6.6	7.6
Columbia Basin		2/25	48	14.4a	7.6a	8.1*
Fawn Creek		2/25	21	6.3a	4.9	4.4*
Gold Creek		2/26	25	7.5	4.1	4.9
Jack Creek, Upper		2/25	24	7.4a	4.7a	7.7
Laurel Draw		2/28	35	10.5	7.4	6.4
Louse Canyon (OR)		Data Delayed			2.2a	2.8*
Taylor Canyon		2/27	23	6.7	6.0	4.1

## SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year
NAME	Elevation					+
<u>UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>						
American Beauty		2/28	48	14.9a	10.8a	8.3*
Corral Canyon		2/25	48	14.4a	13.3a	12.9
Dorsey Basin		2/28	44	13.6	12.4	10.3
Dry Creek		2/28	24	7.3	5.5	2.6
Fry Canyon		2/26	32	9.8	7.2	6.3
Green Mountain		2/25	50	15.5	13.7	11.2
Harrison Pass #1		3/4	22	6.0	6.5	3.7*
Harrison Pass #2		Data Delayed		7.6	5.4*	
Lamoille #1		2/22	42	9.5	9.3	8.2
Lamoille #2		2/22	37	9.8	8.8	7.6
Lamoille #3		2/22	51	13.1	10.5	9.9
Lamoille #4		2/22	68	18.4	16.9	14.7
Lamoille #5		2/22	81	25.1	21.3	22.0
Pole Canyon		Data Delayed		11.3a	6.9*	
Robinson Lake		2/25	120	37.2a	34.3a	22.1*
Rodeo Flat		2/27	26	6.5	6.7	4.9
Ryan Ranch		2/28	0	0.0	3.4	0.9*
Tent Mountain, Upper		2/25	70	21.0	19.2a	-
Tremewan Ranch		2/26	6	2.0	3.0	1.2
Trout Creek, Lower		2/28	22	6.4	4.6	3.1
Trout Creek, Upper		Data Delayed		21.8	16.1	
<u>LOWER HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>						
Big Creek Camp Ground		2/28	2	0.5	4.7	1.1
Big Creek Mine		2/28	23	6.7	6.6	4.0
Big Creek, Upper		2/28	22	6.5	10.1	5.1
Buckskin, Lower		3/4	33	9.6	7.6	7.4
Buckskin, Upper		3/4	27	9.6	9.2	8.7
Corral, Lower		Data Delayed		-	1.4*	
Corral, Upper		Data Delayed		-	4.5*	
Golconda #2		2/25	19	5.2	6.2	3.9
Granite Peak		3/5	36	11.8	15.9	13.2
Lamance Creek		2/27	32	11.7	9.2	9.4
Martin Creek		3/5	29	9.0	9.3	8.9
Midas		2/25	11	3.2a	1.8a	3.3
Toe Jam		2/25	34	9.9a	10.8a	7.9*

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE NAME	THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (inches)	Water Content (inches)	Last Year	Average +

## EASTERN NEVADA

Baker #1	Data	Delayed	7.3	5.7
Baker #2	Data	Delayed	12.4	11.9
Baker #3	2/26	37	10.7	13.4a 13.0
Berry Creek	Data	Delayed	14.4	11.5
Bird Creek	Data	Delayed	4.1	3.5
Kalamazoo Creek	Data	Delayed	7.8	6.1
Mount Defiance	2/26	63	18.9a	16.8a -
Murray Summit	2/26	16	3.6	5.7 2.8
Robinson Summit	2/26	13	2.9	2.8 1.9
Silver Creek #2	2/26	31	9.0a	8.4a 4.7
Ward Mountain #2	2/26	24	6.7a	8.9a 8.2
White River #1	Data	Delayed	5.5	2.5*
Hole-in-Mountain	3/1	66	24.3	16.9 19.3

## CENTRAL GREAT BASIN

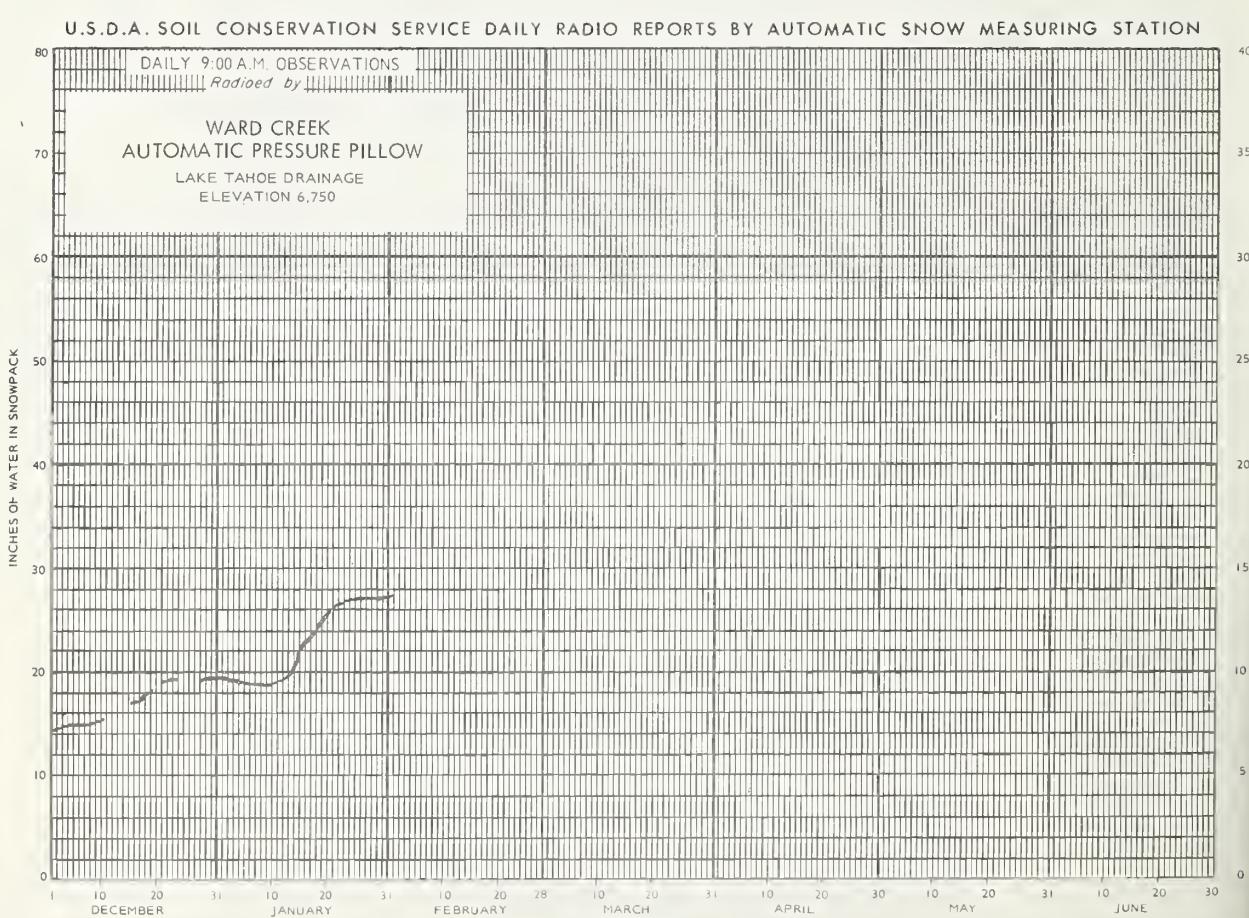
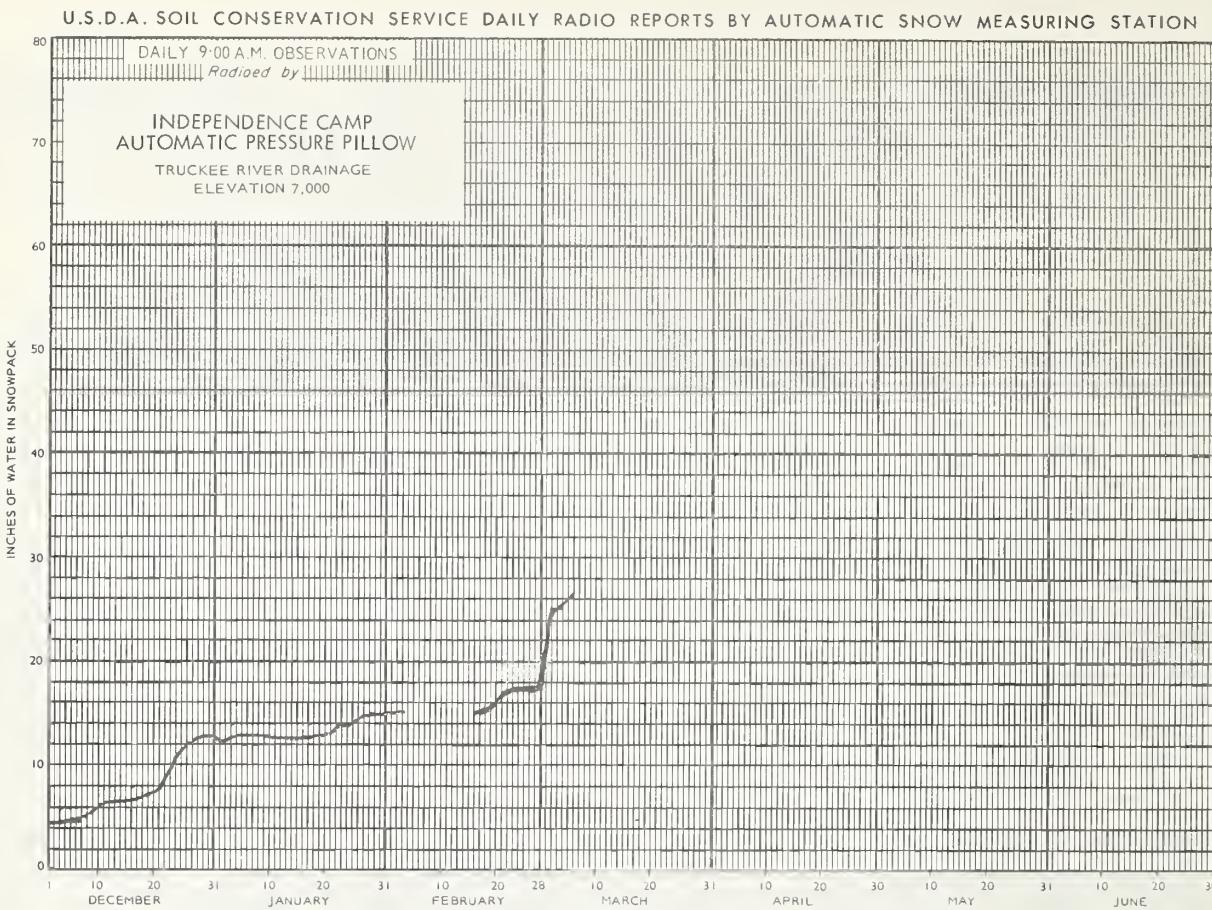
Campito Mountain (CA)	2/21	10	2.8	7.2	4.9*
Chiatovich Flat	Data	Delayed	0.0a	3.2*	
Clark Canyon	2/26	25	6.8	13.8	7.3
Montgomery Pass	2/27	2	0.8	2.9	1.3*
Pinchot Creek	Data	Delayed	0.0a	0.9*	
Piute Pass (CA)	Data	Delayed	3.1a	4.7*	
Trough Springs	2/26	19	5.8	13.6	5.0*

## LOWER COLORADO RIVER

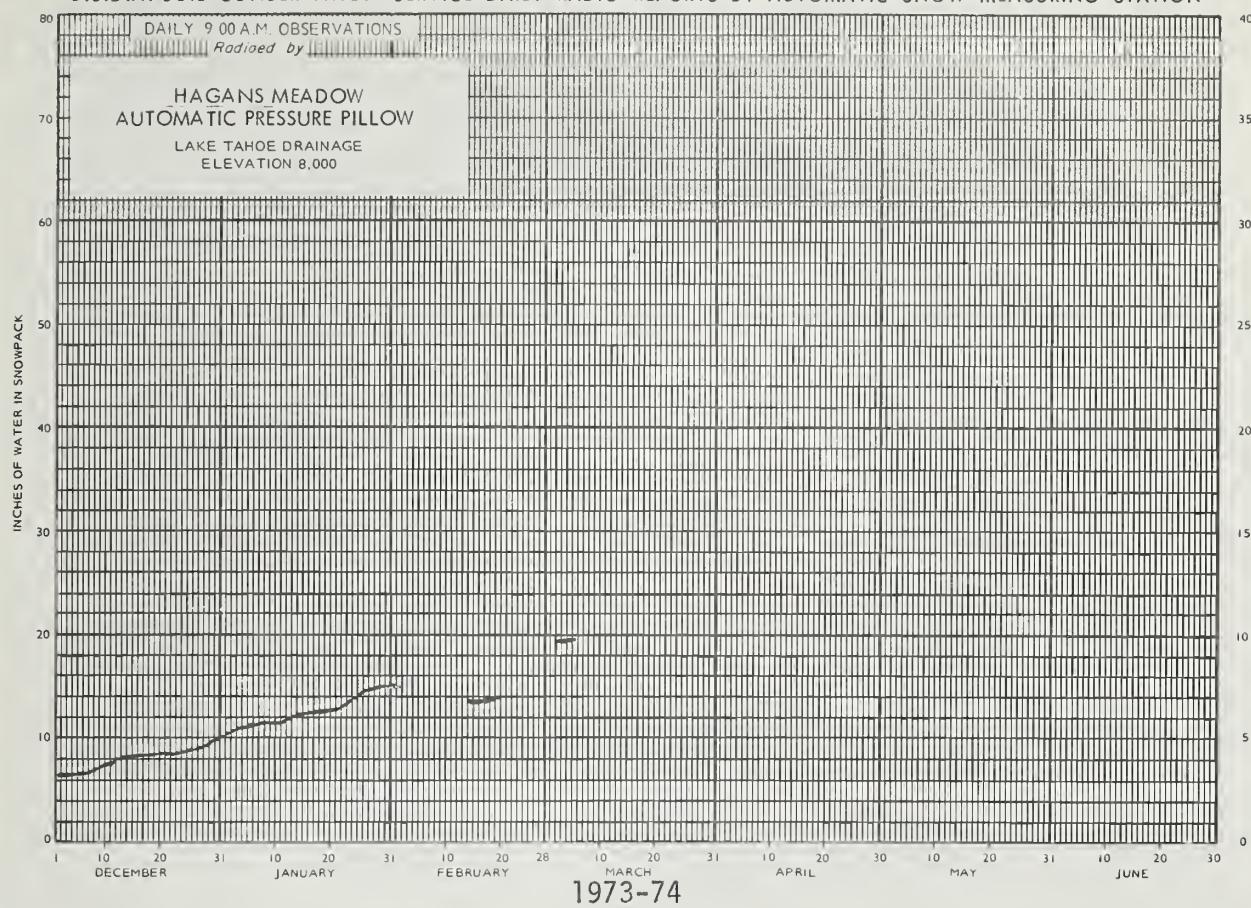
Kyle Canyon	2/27	23	8.4	16.3	9.6
Lee Canyon #2	2/27	27	8.3	14.7	9.0
Lee Canyon #3	2/27	20	6.6	11.9	7.5*
Mathew Canyon	3/1	2	0.4	6.7	4.4
Rainbow Canyon #2	2/27	37	11.8	21.0	13.1*
Pine Canyon	3/1	7	3.2	7.0	6.3*

### NOTE:

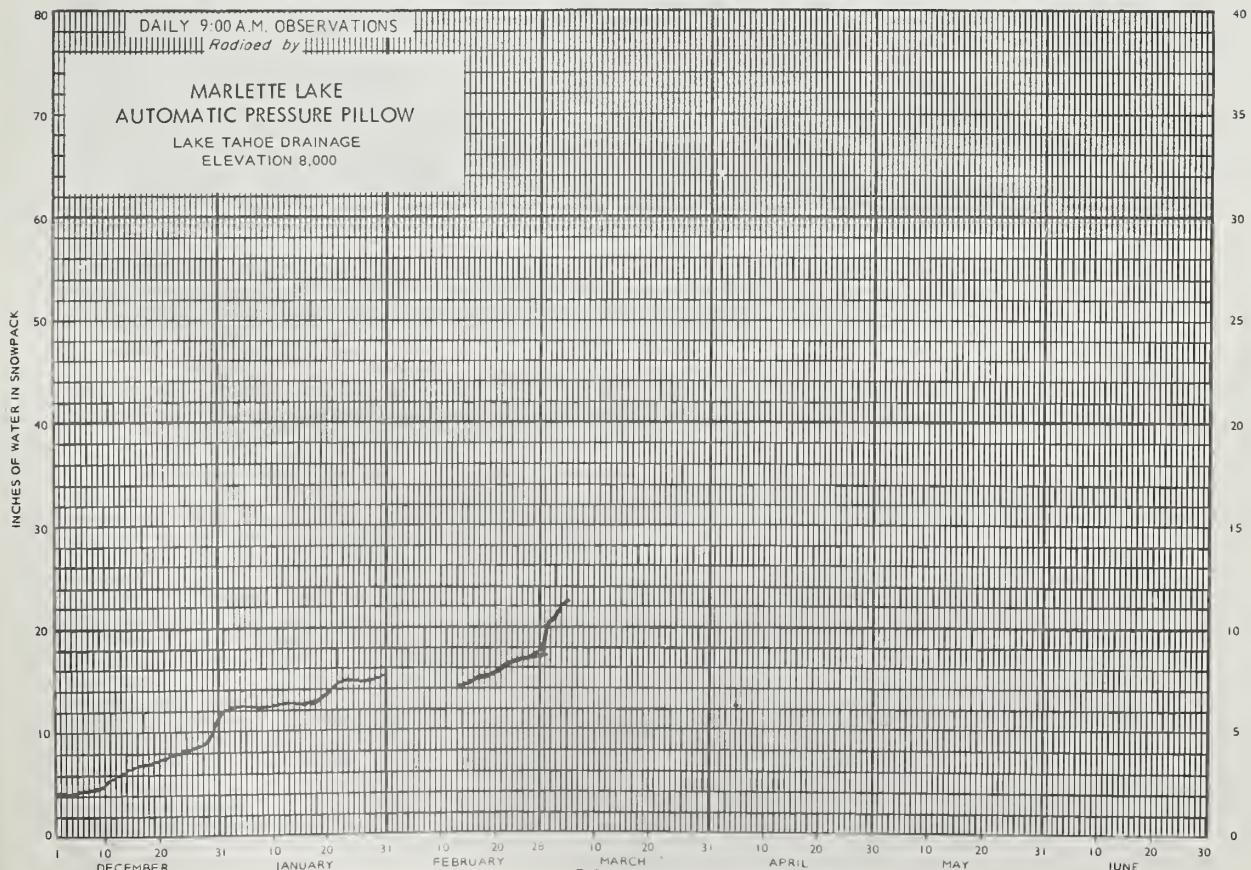
All averages based on 1958-72, 15 year period. Forecast period is April 1 through July 31 unless otherwise noted.  
a-Aerial marker, water content estimated. \* 1958-72 adjusted average.



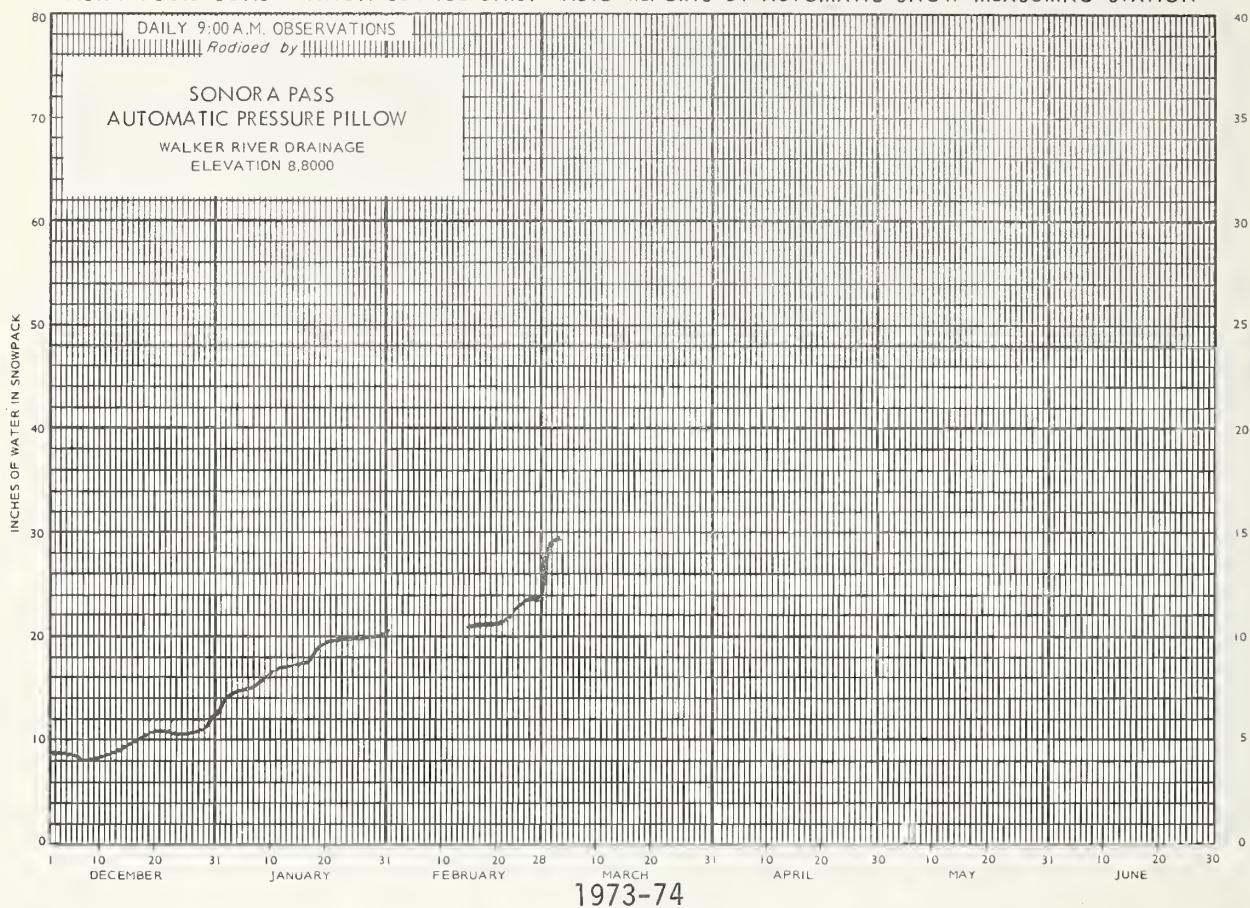
U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION



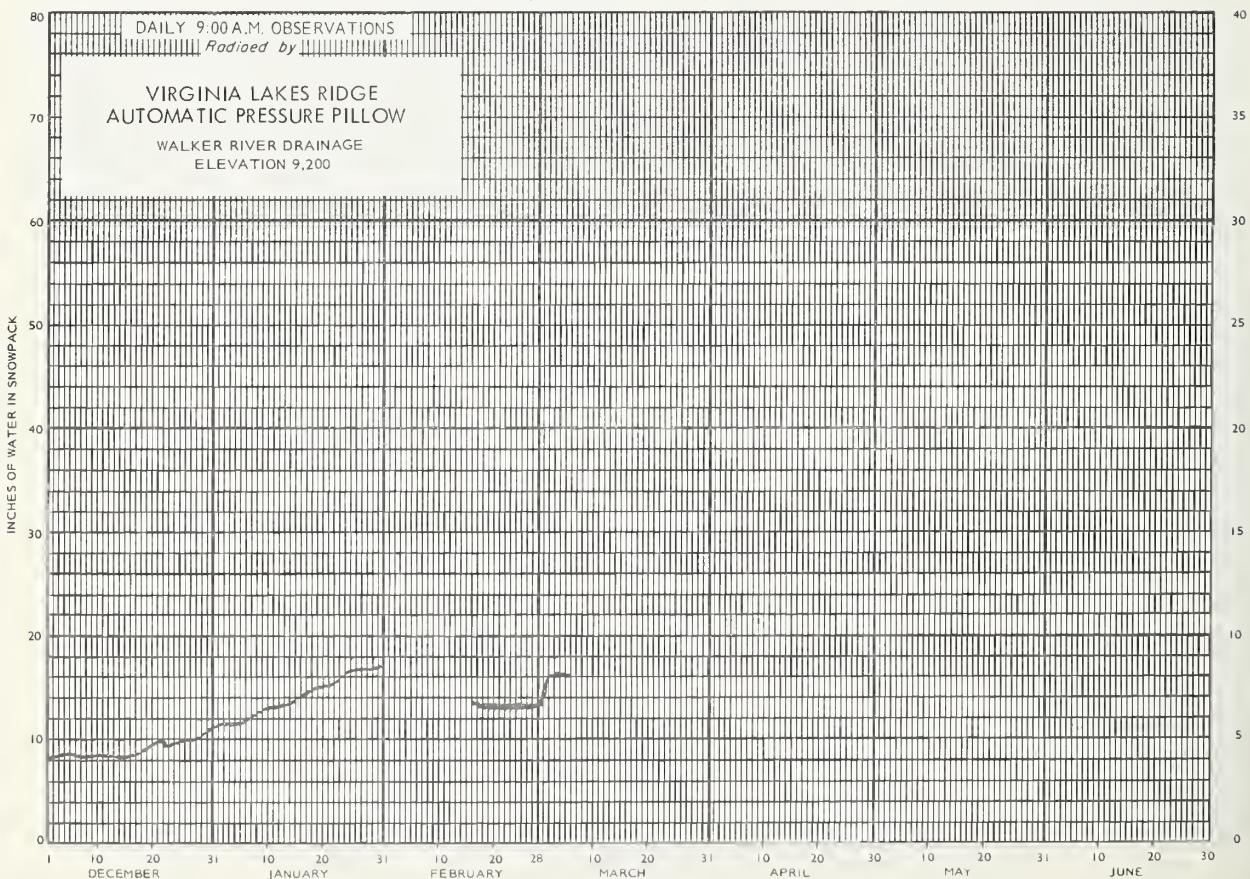
U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION



U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION



U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION



# Agencies Cooperating in Collecting Data Contained in this Bulletin

## FEDERAL

Agricultural Research Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Forest Service  
Geological Survey  
Navy  
Soil Conservation Service  
U. S. District Court - Federal Water Master  
NOAA, National Weather Service

## STATE

California Cooperative Snow Surveys  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Department of Water Resources  
Colorado River Commission of Nevada  
Idaho Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts  
Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Division of Water Resources  
Nevada State Forester  
Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys  
White Mountain Research Station, Univ. of California

## PRIVATE

Amalgamated Sugar Company  
Kennecott Copper Corporation  
Nevada Irrigation District  
Owyhee Project North Board of Control  
Owyhee Project South Board of Control  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Pershing County Water Conservation District  
Sierra Pacific Power Company  
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District  
Walker River Irrigation District  
Washoe County Water Conservancy District

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their Cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
P.O. BOX 4850  
RENO, NEVADA 89505  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
AGR-101

# FIRST CLASS MAIL

## FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

USDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL  
LIBRARY (2)  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD  
BELTSVILLE, MD 20705

Furnishes the basic data  
necessary for forecasting  
water supply for irrigation,  
domestic and municipal water  
supply, hydro-electric power  
generation, navigation,  
mining and industry

*"The Conservation of Water begins  
with the Snow Survey"*